

PROJECT ARCHAEOLOGY NEWS

ISSUE 3

INDIANA

FALL 2003



What is Project Archaeology?

Project Archaeology is a national archaeology and heritage education program for educators and their students. The goal of Project Archaeology is to promote awareness, appreciation, and stewardship of our nation's cultural heritage. The program was developed by the Bureau of Land Management in the early 1990s and is currently operating or being developed in 32 states, including Indiana. Under a new partnership with The Watercourse at Montana State University, Project Archaeology is poised to expand to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Territories. As the program expands nationwide, it is estimated to reach 13,500 teachers and 335,000 students annually.

Project Archaeology comprises three main components: high-quality educational materials, workshops, and continuing professional development. Through hands-on activities from the multidisciplinary teacher's guide, *Intrigue of the Past: A Teacher's Activity Guide for Fourth through Seventh Grades*, students uncover the fundamental concepts of archaeology, how archaeologists work and interpret results, and ethical issues of stewardship and cultural understanding. The educational materials are delivered to educators through a network of state coordinators at professional development workshops led by teams of archaeologists and fellow educators. The workshops teach how to use the materials, provide hands-on experiences in archaeology, allow opportunities to discuss ethical issues in archaeology with professionals, and explore various cultural perspectives.

The Indiana State Museum serves as the center for Indiana's Project Archaeology program, but there are numerous partners and supporting institutions statewide. Indiana became involved with Project Archaeology in the summer of 1999 and has held twelve teacher workshops to date, reaching well over 100 educators. As the program continues to grow, efforts are being made to train facilitators, sponsor workshops, and produce supplementary materials. The mission of Project Archaeology in Indiana is to educate teachers and students about the preservation of the past through archaeology, instill a sense of respect for the cultural heritage of the state and its people, and promote archaeology as a scientific method of investigation.

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Resource List

Find resources available to educators in each Project Archaeology newsletter.

Department of Historic Preservation & Archaeology — State Archaeologist's Office with information on Indiana's archaeology laws, educational material, Indiana's archaeology history and Indiana Archaeology Month.
Contact Amy Johnson 317-232-1646
Web site: www.in.gov/dnr/historic

Society for American Archaeology — Archaeology and Public Education Newsletter and many other educational resources.
Contact Maureen Mallroy
Web site: www.saa.org/PubEdu/a&pe/index.html

Hovey Lake Site (Posey County, Indiana) — Web site detailing ongoing excavations at this Late Mississippian archaeological site.
Web site: www.usi.edu/extserv.archlg

Lick Creek African-American Settlement (U.S. Forest Service) — Information regarding one of Indiana's 19th century African-American Communities and ongoing archaeological excavations.
Web site: www.fs.fed.us/r9/hossier/docs/history/lick_creek.htm

Indiana University – Purdue University Fort Wayne Archaeological Survey — Information on previous and current archaeological projects.
Web site: www.ipfw.edu/archsurv/Home.html

Smithsonian Institution Anthropology Outreach Office — Information and lesson plans on archaeology, anthropology, and various cultures.
Contact Ann Kaupp 202-357-1592
Web site: www.nmnh.si.edu/anthro/outreach/outrch1.htm

Falls of the Ohio Archaeological Society — A membership organization for archaeology professionals, students, amateurs, and interested public offering a multitude of archaeology opportunities and information on current projects.
Contact Ann Bader 812-636-2560
Web site: www.falls-society.org

Indiana State Museum — exhibits, workshops and lesson plans on archaeology and Native American culture.
Contact Gail Brown 317-234-2412
Web site: www.indianamuseum.org

What’s New

Indiana has plenty to offer in the way of archaeological resources for educators. Here are just a few of the opportunities available, new for the 2003-04 school year.

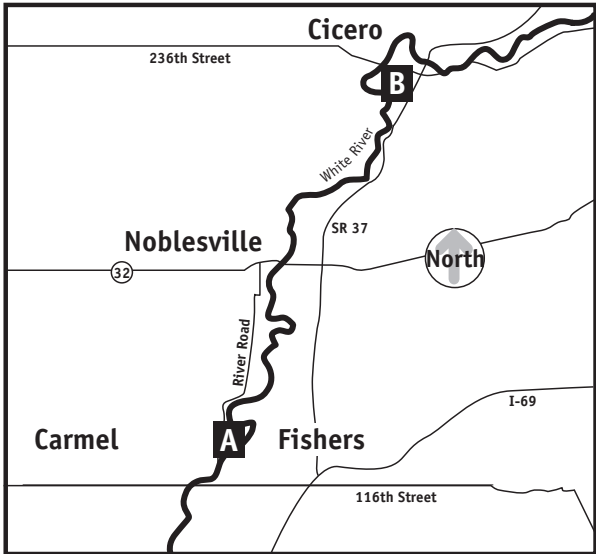
Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department:

A Journey to Days Past

This new and innovative exhibit about the Oliver Phase Native Americans is located at River Road Park. With a push of a button, guests can learn about the Oliver Native Americans, a cultural group that inhabited areas along the White River from 1100 – 1400 AD. The interactive exhibit focuses on a fictional Oliver family preparing for a journey. The scenes and story provide an educational glimpse into what the lives of these early people were like. Also at the park, guests can enjoy an archaeology themed playground, mastodon bone discovery area, tall-grass prairie, and information on Indiana’s pre-contact history. The exhibit is open from dawn to dusk and is accessible to all ages. River Road Park is located in Carmel, Indiana on River Road just off of 126th Street.

Archaeology Group Programs

Hamilton County Parks Department’s naturalist staff is now able to conduct programs for schools, scouts, and adult groups at the River Road Park and the Strawtown Koteewi Park. The Strawtown Koteewi Park, though still under development, can accommodate groups wishing to observe an earthwork mound occupied by Oliver Native Americans during the 13th century. This earthwork along with associated features and artifacts suggests an Oliver fortified village once stood in this location with somewhere near 150 inhabitants. School group costs are \$1/child for non-Hamilton County students, and free for Hamilton County students. Donations are accepted. For more information or to book a school field trip, call Amanda Smith, Chief Naturalist at 317-848-0576.



River Road Park (A) and Strawtown Koteewi Park (B) in Hamilton County, Indiana.



Paleoindian figures display flintknapping in the Indiana State Museum’s Native American gallery.

Indiana State Museum:

Excavating Our Past Archaeology Workshop

This workshop provides students with a hands-on opportunity to learn about the science of archaeology. Activities include applying the scientific process to archaeological artifacts, discerning observations from inferences, mapping, and discovering the importance of context. Students then apply their newly learned skills in a participatory situation. Workshop cost is \$2 per student. To register for the workshop contact the museum at 317-232-1637 or visit www.indianamuseum.org for more information.

Native American Self-Guided Tour Program

Educators can download this free tour packet from the Indiana State Museum website link www.in.gov/ism/Education/Native_American_Tour_Packet.pdf. The packet contains background information on Indiana’s diverse Native American past, as well as pre- and post-visit activities for use in the classroom. The tour provides teachers and chaperones with more detailed information on the exhibits and artifacts, thought-provoking questions for students, and suggested exhibit highlights to encourage student interest.

Archaeology at Marris Elementary

By Terri Branson

Fourth grade students in Mrs. Branson’s class at Marris Elementary are learning to think like archaeologists. With help from Intrigue of the Past lessons, “Why the Past is Important,” “Observation & Inference,” and “Context”, the students discover a story from artifacts found in a make believe site. This “site” is part of an artifact kit developed by Indiana University archaeologists Cheryl Munson and Jocelyn Turner that can be used to recreate an excavation in the classroom. Students study the site’s maps and place the artifacts on a grid, drawn on the classroom carpet. Each day they “uncover” a new layer to learn more about the people living at the site. Students use their observation skills and the context of the artifacts to answer questions proposed for the research: What did these people eat? From what were their homes built? What kind of clothing did they wear? Each student then uses the information to write the story of the people at the make believe site.



Students search the screens for artifacts at the Hovey Lake site near Evansville.

To further enhance student thinking, the class visited a working archaeology site at Hovey Lake in Posey County. Guided by Cheryl Munson, the students made observations from the data recovered during the excavations. Mrs. Munson asked the students to form a hypothesis on what they thought happened in the area. This activity made the students pull information from their earlier

observations. Later, students tried their hands at screening. What fun, when they discovered pottery and flint!

At the final stop at Hovey Lake, the students were once again asked to use their observation and thinking skills to unravel a story told by artifacts. Teams of students were given a box of artifacts from different time periods and were asked to answer similar questions to the ones used on their make believe site.

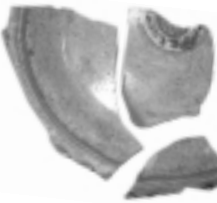
By combining classroom activities and projects with a visit to an actual archaeological site, students were able to apply lessons from the classroom to a real life situation, hence reinforcing classroom lessons.

For information about archaeological research at Hovey Lake and other Southwestern Indiana sites visit: <http://www.indiana.edu/~archaeo>

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2003 Excavation Follow-Up



Educators participating in Project Archaeology Workshops in 2003 were able to excavate on some very interesting sites. This year, educators assisted archaeologists in excavating the Castor Farm site near Strawtown (Hamilton County) and the Dormitory 2 site in New Harmony (Posey County). Both projects discovered important details about portions of Indiana’s past.

Educators working with archaeologists from Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW) on the Castor Farm site found two massive postmolds in one of their excavation units. These substantial, closely spaced posts suggest the presence of a large structure, possibly a stockade wall. IPFW archaeologists discovered portions of structures, storage pits, earth ovens, and several hearths. Currently, the artifacts from this summer are being washed and cataloged and the data is being analyzed. Archaeologists expect to expand their study of the area in the future.

In New Harmony, educators were able to work with archaeologists from the Indiana State Museum. This study focused on an area expected to be disturbed by future restoration work on Dormitory 2. Educators found artifacts dating from the early 19th century to the 20th century strewn through several layers of fill that had been placed in the yard to level the ground. Upon further excavation in

September, archaeologists have found several unique brick features that will need further investigation. Since so many artifacts and unique features were found, archaeologists will have to expand the focus of their study and spend four to six weeks excavating at Dormitory 2 next Spring/Summer.

For more information on the Castor Farm excavation visit www.ipfw.edu/archsurv/Research.html

For more information on the up coming Dormitory 2 excavation, contact Gail Brown at gbrown@dnr.state.in.us or 317-234-2412.



Teachers participate in excavating and screening at the Castor Farm site near Strawtown in Hamilton County.

Image at the left corner: Harmonist pottery, ca. 1822 discovered behind Dorm 2 in New Harmony, Indiana during a follow-up excavation in Fall 2003.

